PRINTER RUSH
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

(1)

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[RUSH] **MESSAGE:** On page 6, lines 22+23 of the spec missing numbers. Please provide.

THANK YOU

[XRUSH] **RESPONSE:** OK

INITIALS: M

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the relative movement of the seat, backrest and ottoman of each reclining section **12, 16**.

In the illustrated embodiment, each of the reclining sections rests on the underlying surface via a base **14a**; however, those skilled in this art will recognize that reclining mechanisms of other configurations (including one-way, two-way, and three-way mechanisms, and wall proximity and non-wall-proximity reclining mechanisms) may also be suitable for use with the present invention. The reclining mechanisms **14** may be actuated in any manner known to be suitable for such actuation; examples include release cords and cables, push buttons, handles, and even simple application of force to the backrest of the reclining sections **12, 16**.

Referring now to **Figures 3-6**, the reclining sections **12, 16** are interconnected with a connector **20**. The connector **20** includes a male component **22** and a female component **30** that engage one another to interconnect the reclining sections **12, 16**. Each of these components is discussed in greater detail below.

Referring still to **Figures 3-6**, the male component **22**, which is typically formed of steel, includes as a base a thin base plate **24** (typically formed of steel) that is tapered at one end. At the non-tapered end, the base plate **24** is fixed to one of the reclining mechanisms **14** of the reclining section **12** (in this instance, to the base **14a** via bolts inserted through apertures **24a**) and extends laterally therefrom such that a portion of the base plate **24** is exposed from the footprint of the reclining section **12**. Near the vertex of the tapered end of the base plate **24**, an upwardly-extending post **26** is mounted to the base plate **24**; typically the post **26** rises between about 0.25 and 1.0 inches above the upper surface of the base plate **24**. In the illustrated embodiment two posts **28a, 28b** are mounted on the base plate **24** between the reclining mechanism **14** and the post **26**. The posts **28a, 28b** serve as stops that limit the relative motion of the male and female components **22, 30**; alternatively, the posts **28a, 28b** may be replaced with a raised step that extends across some or all of the expanse of the base plate **24**, or may be omitted entirely.

Referring again to **Figures 3-6**, the female component **30**, which is also typically formed of steel, includes a generally Y-shaped base plate **32** that serves as its base. At one end, the base plate **32** is fixed to the base **14a** of one of the reclining